

09/462995 #30  
14 JAN 2000  
Case RN97075

5-1-00

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In the Application of: Bruno LANGLOIS****National Phase of PCT/98/01514****International Filing Date: July 10, 1998****Examiner:****Serial Number:****Art Unit:****Filed: January 14, 2000****For: FLUIDS FOR USE IN OILFIELD DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING  
DEACETYLATED XANTHAN GUM AND AT LEAST ONE COMPOUND  
INCREASING THE IONIC STRENGTH OF THE MEDIUM**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculation of filing fee, please enter the following amendment in the specification and claims:

In the specification:

Page 1, just after the title, please add: - - This application is an application under 35 U.S.C. Section 371 of International Application Number PCT/FR98/01514, filed on July 10, 1998. - -

Page 22, line 1, please cancel "CLAIMS" and replace it with - - What is claimed is:- -

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 21 and add the following new claims 22 to 44:

22. A guar-free fluid for use in oil production, comprising a deacetylated xanthan gum in the form of a polypentamer, combined with at least one compound which increases the ionic strength of the fluid.

A2  
Subt  
B17